

Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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ANIMAL CENSUS Counting the Wild Creatures of North America

HUNDREDS of men, women, boys, and girls are taking part in a census of the wild beasts, birds, and fish throughout the United States and Canada. The counting of the birds has already begun, and is the 50th annual bird census.

The idea of this wild life census was inaugurated by the American naturalist Frank M. Chapman in 1899, and since then more and more voluntary helpers have come forward to assist in this highly interesting task. Although these counts are never truly complete, they provide interesting comparisons in areas covered year after year.

The bird census will be followed by the 15th annual waterfowl census, which became a nationwide inventory only in 1947. Organised by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, trained observers—conservation officers, forest rangers, ornithologists, sportsmen—will link up to watch the skies and the wintering grounds of various birds. This difficult counting task will be assisted by observers in aircraft, who will photograph pictures of waterfowl as they fly or mass in marshland lakes and bays.

It is interesting to note that jet planes have already been used for this work in California, the speed of the plane permitting the aerial photographer to "shoot" flying geese before they have a chance to turn away.

When a waterfowl census was taken in 1944, the count then revealed an approximate total of 125,000 birds, but the number seems to have declined substantially since then. In Canada, however, a September 1949 survey revealed such numbers of waterfowl that an increase is anticipated in the official January count.

Deer predominate among big-

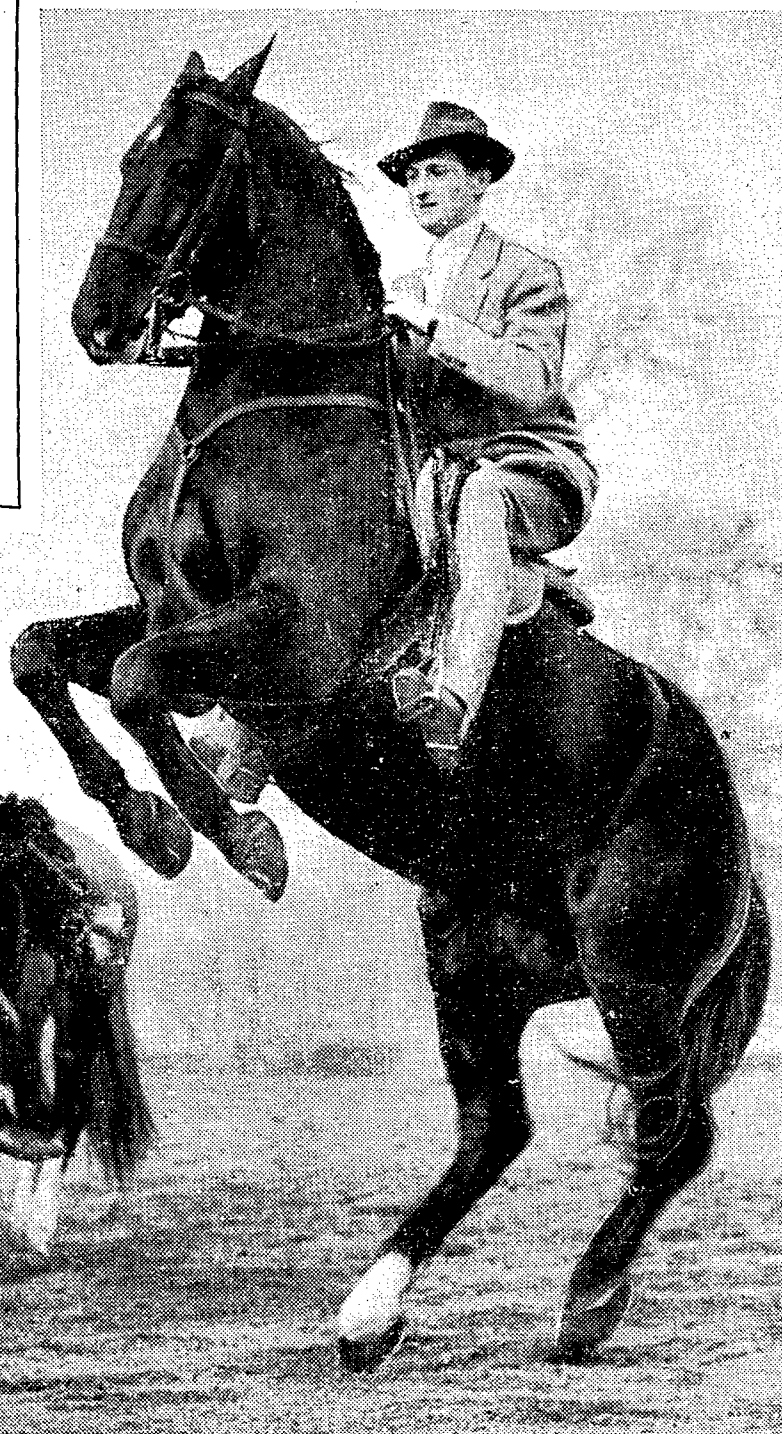
game animals—according to the censuses of recent years, they roam wild in all 48 States. In 1915 their numbers declined so much that controls were introduced, resulting in such a rapid increase that today there are nine deer to every single animal of other big-game species. In Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin,

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Help Came to Him in a Flash

WHILE hiking between Brisbane and Toowoomba, in Australia, a man recently dislocated his ankle and lay helpless on a lonely track. After several hours of vain hope that someone would arrive to help him he had what might be called a bright idea. Taking his shaving mirror from his pack he flashed a call for help to a farm which he could just see in the distance. Fortunately, his signal was seen and answered.

TIPTOE IN THE ROW



When Angela Jones, on her Shetland pony, and Rita Ridout, on her horse Decision, went for a morning canter in Rotten Row the other day, they witnessed a fine display of horsemanship by a circus rider.

Which is the Longest River?

IN spite of the excellent modern charting of the surface of the globe, the question of which is the longest river has always been one for argument.

At different times claims have been made for the Nile, the Yangtze Kiang, the Amazon, and the Mississippi-Missouri; but most modern encyclopedias support the claims of the Amazon.

Now a writer in the Geographical Journal has had a few words to say on the subject. He has lately remeasured the world's major rivers from their source in the "World Aeronautical Charts" and finds that the Amazon is longest with a length of 4050 miles. Next comes the Nile with 3930 miles, the third is the Mississippi-Missouri with 3760 miles, and the Yangtze Kiang is fourth with 3500 miles.

No doubt this latest claim will cause a mild flutter in some geographical dovecots.

BOUNTY AT GODSTONE

MATERIAL from the old House of Commons, from Canada and France, a staircase from a haunted house, ships' timbers, and over 10,000 bricks and 15 tons of concrete have gone to build the fine new headquarters of Godstone Wolf Cubs.

These fine new premises, called The Bounty, have been built almost entirely by the Scouts of the small Surrey village for their younger comrades who unfortunately lost their old H Q early last year.

Inspired by their G.S.M., Mr Horace Fairall, and with very little professional aid, the Scouts have given over two thousand

hours of labour to their self-imposed task.

The building is one of their own design in the form of a Tudor dovecot, and is on two floors each 19 feet square. A great mountain ash was felled and dressed by the Scouts themselves to form the main supporting beam. The floors are Surrey oak, and the carvings on the walls, of Sussex stone, include gargoyles, a wolf's head, and a fine sundial, all done by Scouts and Scouters.

Dictionary definition of Bounty: munificence, liberality of giving. An appropriate name indeed.

FISH STORY

IN last week's CN we told of a strange creature, half-fish, half-antelope, said to have been sighted in a dam in Western Transvaal. Now, from the Torres Straits, Queensland, we hear of another queer fish.

The fish was speared by a native fisherman off Thursday Island. It has been described as having a long flat beak, fins like a flying fish, a barbed tail like a scorpion, and two legs!

Too Many Toads

YET another instance of curing one ill and setting up another, is the introduction of giant toads into Queensland.

These monsters, nine inches long, covered with warts and with large poison glands on each side of their ugly faces, now exist in millions in the sugar areas of Queensland.

Several thousands of them were brought from Hawaii to Australia in 1935 by the Queensland Bureau of Sugar Experimental Stations, to combat the grubs and insects which infest sugar canes. This they have done very successfully. But the giant toads have multiplied so rapidly that they, too, have become a pest.

Planning to Help South-East Asia

THE important conference of the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers in Colombo, capital of Ceylon, quickly achieved its purpose, and the visitors to the youngest Dominion have gone home to tell their Governments of its conclusions.

Although no important political decisions were taken, in the opinion of many this brotherly meeting may well have been a turning point in the history of the British Commonwealth of Nations in Asia and the Pacific.

Let us look at some outstanding facts about this conference. Eight nations from four continents met. They represented several races, colours, and religions, and, amazingly enough, they agreed on most of the subjects discussed. Where differences arose, as, say, over cheap Japanese exports which are wanted by India and Pakistan, but which are feared by Australia and New Zealand, the differences were over the details of a policy and not of principles.

Once again the great binding force of British ideas of democracy and international co-operation has shown its strength, the more remarkable as each Commonwealth nation is as independent as any of the fifty-odd members of U.N.

Poverty in Asia

As was to be expected, economics dominated the whole conference. Indeed, many problems which today face Asia are really economic. The teeming millions of south-east Asia are poor—desperately poor—and under these conditions fall an easy prey to propaganda by the Communists, who are now strengthened by their successes in China. It is clear therefore that democracy in Asia must come to mean much more than "liberty, equality, fraternity," to use the immortal motto of French democracy. It must mean, above all, full and better employment,

better food, clothing, and housing. And this is precisely the ultimate aim of the Commonwealth nations in Asia.

But economic prosperity in that part of the world cannot be created by the Asiatic nations themselves. They lack the capital, and they are much too short of machines and of skilled technicians and engineers to raise the industrial and agricultural production of Asia to higher levels. This is where the help of Britain and other Dominions, especially Canada and Australia, comes in.

Britain's Contribution

In his speech to the Press at the close of the Colombo Conference, Mr Bevin gave a very detailed description of what this country has already done for the Asiatic nations since the end of the war. The Foreign Secretary disclosed that, since 1945, Britain has paid to the Asiatic countries not less than £750,000,000 in loans and grants and similar allowances. This is about half of what we have paid out in all kinds of aid, including Unrra, throughout the world.

But the new plans of technical help to Asiatic countries developed by the Colombo Conference mean that even vaster sums will be needed. And these sums are needed urgently, for, as Mr Bevin put it, "with the Communist threat the load has become greater and the time is shorter."

Bearing this in mind, the Conference decided that its members should keep in close touch about economic developments and inter-Commonwealth help for South-East Asia. The first meeting on this subject will soon take place in Australia.

UNWANTED VOYAGE

ILL luck recently befell a party of men who had set out in two sailing boats from the lonely Cocos Islands in the Indian Ocean to obtain fresh food from a passing liner; they had to abandon their boats and travel on with the liner!

The islanders were led by a 21-year-old Britisher, John Clunies-Ross, who is known as the "king" of the islands. With him were five other Britishers and 12 natives. The liner was the P & O Strathaird. She wirelessed to the islands that the sea was too rough for small boats to reach her, but by that time John Clunies-Ross and his "subjects" had already put out. When they reached the liner a hurricane was blowing at 100 miles an hour.

The Strathaird poured oil on the sea to try to make it smoother for the small boats, but one of them hit the side of the ship and turned over. Its crew were rescued by lifelines and lifebelts and they, together with the crew of the other boat, were taken on board the liner, which then continued its voyage to Australia. The mid-ocean provision-seekers had there to await a boat to take them back to the Cocos Islands.

Mr John Clunies-Ross is a descendant of John Clunies-Ross who went to the islands in 1825 and became their "king." His family were granted rights there for ever by Queen Victoria.

A Solid Shaft of Light

THREE young London architects, Michael and Philip Powell, and Hidalgo Moya, have won the first prize of £300 for their design for a striking feature to dominate the group of buildings of the Festival of Britain in London next year.

Their design is for a thin latticed aluminium tube, tapered at both ends and 250 feet long, which will be supported upright, 40 feet above the ground, on a cradle of steel cables. The whole tube will shine at night as though suspended in mid-air.

World-Wide Marathon

A COMMONWEALTH crew of five—a Canadian, an Australian, a South African, and two Englishmen—are making a leisurely 35,000-mile journey to display the latest product of a British aircraft factory.

The plane they are flying is the first Marathon to come off the production line at the works of Handley Page (Reading) Ltd, where it is now in quantity production. The Commonwealth crew are demonstrating its capabilities to airline operators in New Zealand, Australia, Malaya, India and Pakistan, the Middle East, and North Africa before returning to England.

The Marathon is designed for feeder-lines—branch lines feeding trunk airways. It has four Gipsy Queen engines and a range of 500 miles with 22 passengers.

This Marathon sales-promotion tour is expected to last four months, and it is hoped that Britain's export trade will benefit as a result.

NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

INDIAN ANTHEM

An orchestral arrangement of an Indian tune made by Mr Herbert Murrill, assistant music director for the B.B.C. and professor of composition at the Royal Academy of Music, has been adopted as the national anthem of India.

Scout James Kirkham, 13, of the 1st Wrightington (Handicapped) Group, Wigan, has been awarded the Cornwell Scout Badge for courage and fortitude in the ten years he has lain on his back with paralysis.

Britain is to get from 70 to 85 million pounds of cheese from Canada this year, as against 50 million pounds during 1949; and it will cost here about 4d a pound less.

Another 1130 men and women are needed for the Colonial Service. Three-quarters of this number are wanted for Africa, most of the remaining quarter for south-east Asia.



Teddy Briddick, a 14-year-old member of the PDSA who lives at Whitley Bay in Northumberland, is an expert in freeing those unlucky sea-birds whose wings and feathers have become clogged by oil discharged by ships.

Clean Bowled

A broken wicket was the chief ornament on the wedding cake of Test cricketer Martin Donnelly.

The children of Keighley in Yorkshire have just been given a new 35-acre recreation ground by Sir Bracewell Smith, an ex-Lord Mayor of London, who was born in Keighley. It is the Cliffe Castle estate, and includes the 70-year-old castle.

The President of the Board of Trade has stated that the tourist industry is now our biggest dollar-earner.

Pupils at Kessingland Primary School, Suffolk, have built a 20-foot cabin cruiser in their playground.

A conference of six nations with African interests—Belgium, France, Portugal, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, and the United Kingdom—has recommended the establishment of a Commission for Co-operation in Technical Matters in Africa, to solve such problems as disease and soil erosion.

CONCRETE FIGURES

Cement production last year made an all-time record of 9,287,000 tons, an increase of 8.93 per cent. Of this total 7,429,000 tons went to the home market and 1,853,000 tons were exported.

Last year 3907 British Scouts from 301 groups visited 15 different countries—a record.

West Germany is now producing nine million tons of steel a year—20 per cent more than in 1938.

A grant of £1000 towards the expenses of the Hallé Orchestra has been made by the Entertainments Committee of Bolton.

Narrow Escape

For the rescue from the water of a dog in an 18-inch gap between a ship and a Middlesbrough dock, Ronnie O'Hara, a stevedore, and Joseph O'Connor, a wharfman, have each been awarded the White Cross of St Giles, highest award of the People's Dispensary for Sick animals.

The first adult education school to go overseas from the Scandinavian countries was recently welcomed in Manchester. It is made up of 32 students from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland who are spending three months at Holly Royde Residential College, Manchester.

A parsnip nearly four feet long has been grown in a garden at Woodham Ferrers in Essex.

OPERANTO

A light opera in Esperanto, composed by Mr J. Buckley of Bristol, has been accepted for broadcasting by the Czech radio.

Twenty thousand displaced persons leave Europe for other countries every day, according to Major-General F. G. Galleghan, formerly in charge of the Australian Military Mission in Berlin.

Sydney is to have a suburb called New Coventry. It will be built as a memorial to Britain's fallen of the two world wars and will ultimately house some 4000 British ex-Servicemen and their families.

Hen at the Mike

News of the parade of 1000 animals which takes place in Rome every year on St Anthony's Day was introduced over the radio with a cluck from Mannina, the oldest hen in the city.

Troop Leader E. Gebhard, 17, of the 4th Morpeth Troop, Northumberland, has been awarded the Scout Gilt Cross for attempting to save a young man from drowning in the River Wansbeck at Morpeth last May.

Six young workers at a German factory are to study youth club methods at Luton.

A pine tree, 103 feet long and weighing seven tons, a gift from British Columbia to the L.C.C., is to be set up as a flagstaff near County Hall, on the south bank of the Thames.

TAKE CARE!

During November road casualties in Britain totalled 14,783, including 473 killed and 3688 seriously injured. Seventy children were killed and 573 seriously injured. These are the highest casualties for November since 1946.

The Safe Way

WITH the present big demand for C.N. the only way of making sure of your copy each Wednesday is to place a firm order with your newsagent. You are urged to adopt this—the Safe Way—without delay.

ANIMAL CENSUS

Continued from page 1

and Pennsylvania, for instance, there are over three million white-tailed deer.

The second most widely-distributed big-game animal is the black bear, which was once found in all 48 States and is still found in 34. Their number has increased, particularly in the ten years since the Fish and Wildlife Service became partly responsible for their conservation. In 1947 the number of black bears was about 131,900.

Of the 15 kinds of big-game tabulated, most localised is the strange, pig-like collared peccary (or javelina), which is found in vast droves close to the Rio

Grande border. The last census revealed about 100,000.

The most tragic decline of all big-game is that of the bison or buffalo. At the time of the early settlers, the total number of this fine animal was estimated at about fifty million; but it was hunted so remorselessly that when a census was taken in 1889 by the naturalist W. T. Hornaday, only 541 could be found. Now, protected by fenced rangeland, their numbers have grown to some 4000, mostly in Montana and South Dakota.

Altogether, big-game in North America totalled about 7½ million in the 1947 census, as compared with 6½ million in 1941.

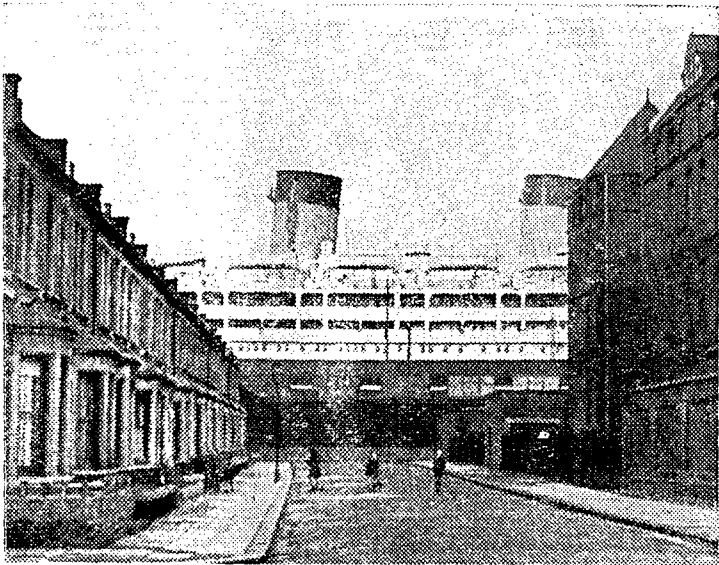
With fish, census-taking is much more difficult, and accurate counts are practically impossible. One method, used in trout lakes, is that of using mild electric shocks to drive the fish to the surface, thus making the counting possible. At power and irrigation dams, fish are counted as they ascend the "fish ladders."

While counting fish in the sea is indeed a formidable job, it says much for the miracles of science that an ocean-going research ship, Albatross III, should be engaged on a five-year census of the food fish of the Atlantic.

ART STUDENTS' OWN SHOW

AN Exhibition of young artists' work is open at the R.B.A. Galleries, Suffolk Street, London, until February 18. It is called The Young Contemporaries, and students at art schools in many parts of the country are represented in it.

This is the second annual Young Contemporaries Exhibition. Many works in last year's exhibition were sold, the Queen buying two.



A Ship at the End of the Street

Lying in a London dry dock, the 26,000-ton liner Dominion Monarch dwarfs the houses of Saville Road, Silvertown.

WEED-FALL

BORNE by a high wind, great quantities of a light weed known in Australia as umbrella or blow-away grass floated down in northern New South Wales recently, half-burying houses beneath a brown-green pall.

At one homestead near the township of Wee Waa the grass piled up for five days, covering doors and windows and shutting out light and air; little more than a foot of chimney is reported to have been visible when at last the wind ceased.

Mica From the Lab

INDIA may well feel uneasy over the announcement that American scientists have succeeded in synthetically making mica or "natural glass," as it is called by those who employ the natural product for its many uses.

Synthetic mica has already been produced in British and German laboratories, but only on a small and costly scale; but the Americans seem to be on the way to making their country independent of external supplies, and that would have the effect of depriving India of millions of pounds of her annual revenue.

India suffered a similar heavy loss when chemists of a great firm of German scientific manufacturers discovered how to make perfect artificial indigo; natural indigo had previously been a great source of wealth to Indian cultivators.

Famous Woodlands

NEARLY 50 acres of beautiful woodlands, bright with rhododendrons, which formerly were part of Claremont estate near Esher in Surrey, have been acquired by the National Trust.

The mansion known as Claremont is now a girls' school.

It was Lord Clive of Plassey who bought the estate and had the grounds laid out and the house built by Capability Brown, the landscape gardener. But Clive never lived there. Later it was the home of Princess Charlotte, the daughter of George the Fourth and wife of Prince Leopold—the future first King of the Belgians, and here she died with her baby when she was only 21.

After the Revolution of 1848 Claremont became the refuge of the exiled royal family of France, and Louis Philippe died here.

Fighting the Tsetse

A TWELVE-MONTH report of the new drug antrycide, announced to the world in early 1949 as an effective antidote to the ravages of tsetse fly in Africa, shows that it has been administered to 500,000 cattle there.

Experiments are now going on to find out for how long the drug will give immunity. In some areas it is necessary to repeat the treatment every three months, and this means that more and more people must be trained in dosing the cattle.

What is even more important is to wipe out the tsetse fly completely. While the tsetse exists it will carry disease and possibly breed other forms of disease immune to the new drug. Its breeding grounds must be tracked down and destroyed; no other plan will effectively deal with this enemy of progress in Africa.

The Girl He Left Behind

WHEN a motorist was stopped by the police at Kankakee, Illinois, not long ago, he exclaimed as he applied the brakes: "Now what's this for? I'm doing nothing wrong."

"Where's your wife?" asked the policeman. "In the back seat," replied the driver. But she wasn't.

A silent passenger by habit, she had got out at a petrol-filling station 30 miles back unnoticed by her husband, and had telephoned to the police to stop him.

RELIC OF ROMAN CHESTER

A COLUMN that probably stood in the colonnade of a Roman officer's house in Chester has been discovered by workmen digging a trench for a drain. It is one of the largest Roman columns ever found in Chester, and is to be placed in the Roman garden at Newgate.

It was near Newgate that excavations for a new road, about 20 years ago, revealed a fine Roman amphitheatre. The new road was abandoned so that this impressive relic of the days when the famous XX Legion occupied Chester should be preserved.

SHIVERING MOUNTAIN

MAM TOR, a Derbyshire height which is known locally as the Shivering Mountain, is reported to have started to "shiver" again, following some small landslides.

The "shivering" is due to a composition of shale and grit in alternate layers which, disintegrated by severe frosts, crumble down in heaps from time to time.

In the past a road below Mam Tor had to be fortified against such bombardments. The mountain, which commands magnificent views over Kinderscout and the uplands above Castleton and Edale, is about 1709 feet high, and is crowned with an ancient camp.

FLOATING CARS!

PEOPLE on the edge of Lake Winnebago in Wisconsin might well have been forgiven for rubbing their eyes in amazement the other day. For floating in the lake were 250 empty cars! Closer investigation revealed that the cars were on a huge sheet of ice.

Apparently a number of car owners had found a fine way of fishing in the partially frozen lake. They drove their cars onto the ice by the banks and fished from inside their cars.

All would have been well had not a sudden gust of wind torn the ice platform away from the bank and sent it out into the lake.

We may be sure that the car owners who had been wishing for milder weather immediately changed their minds!

Welsh International Aged 18

FOR the recent match against England, at Twickenham, the Welsh full-back was Lewis Jones, who at the age of 18 years 5 months is the youngest player to gain the Welsh international cap, since Norman Biggs, aged 17 years 4 months, won that honour for Cardiff College in 1889.

Lewis Jones, who hails from Neath, was prominent as a schoolboy centre a year or two ago, and he retained this position with considerable success after he joined the Navy and played for Devonport Services. His brilliant place-kicking and his sure tackling encouraged the Welsh selectors to choose him for the full-back berth.

STAMP NEWS

GREECE plans to issue a new set of stamps this year to replace those now in use. The stamps will depict ancient Greek heroes.

CURRENCY in the island of Barbados having been changed from pence and pounds to cents and dollars, it has been found necessary to issue new stamps, and so a pictorial set has been prepared and will appear soon.

THREE composers have been remembered by their countries with special stamps recently. They are Chopin of Poland, Cimarosa of Italy, and Millöcker of Austria.

A SET of stamps showing the monument to General Leclerc at Temara will be placed on sale in Morocco some time this year. The stamps will carry a surcharge to help to pay for the monument.

Caring For the Young Greeks

HERE is a happy story from unhappy Greece. Over 15,000 small Greek children, most of them orphans, are being cared for in colonies under a scheme started by the Queen of Greece. There are fifty of these havens of refuge, maintained by voluntary gifts and helped by international organisations like the Red Cross. One per cent is levied on all industrial products in Greece, and every theatre ticket and restaurant bill has an extra charge of five per cent which goes to help these children.

They are properly clothed and fed, and all necessary medical attention is also given to them. But the work extends beyond physical welfare; a regular education programme, recognised and supported by the Ministry of Education, is being carried out. Thus the children are not only kept up to their schooling, but also learn good citizenship.

In these little colonies of about 500 children and 20 adults each individual is guided along lines

of harmonious community living, but is also treated as an individual; each must do his share for the benefit of all, but at the same time has a chance to develop and express his talents.

In most colonies all the shoes, or all the bedsteads, or all the jackets, are made by the children themselves under the guidance of master craftsmen; and the pride and joy that such accomplishments produce are striking features of this enterprise.

As the children are grouped as far as possible according to the villages and towns from which they came, it is to be expected that when they return to their respective communities they will do so with healthy bodies and trained minds and, what is most important, with the good spirit so necessary for the task of reconstruction that lies ahead. That is why so much emphasis is laid on the maintenance of national and religious traditions along with elementary care and instruction.

Woollens From Wales

A WELSH co-operative woollen factory, to which 715 Welsh farmers have subscribed the share capital, has just been formally opened at Dinas Mawddwy, Merionethshire. Production has started on knitting wool and tweed, and it is hoped that blankets in checks and pastel shades and Welsh quilts will soon be made.

In the 19th century Merionethshire had as many as 45 small woollen factories. Flannel and blankets made in Dolgelly were widely known, and old residents can remember the time when a sloping field beyond the river was white with fleeces drying before they were processed in the four or five factories of that small town.

CALLING ALL PORPOISES

To attract moose within range of a rifle by imitating the roar of the bull moose through a cone of bark is a well-known trick of the American hunter. But did you ever hear of the porpoise callers of the Gilbert Isles? By their efforts whole shoals of fat gleaming porpoises are induced to swim inshore and allow themselves to be stranded on the beach.

An account of this strange method of fishing, told by Sir Arthur Grimble, is one of the many fascinating items in the February issue of World Digest, now on sale, one shilling. Every member of the family will find something to interest them in World Digest.



Signals in the Back Garden

In the back garden of his home at Brent Knoll, Somerset, 12-year-old Roy Lee has set up a signal system modelled on that at the local railway station.

4
CRAVEN HILL, OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, WRITES ABOUT...

Some Queer Birds at London Zoo

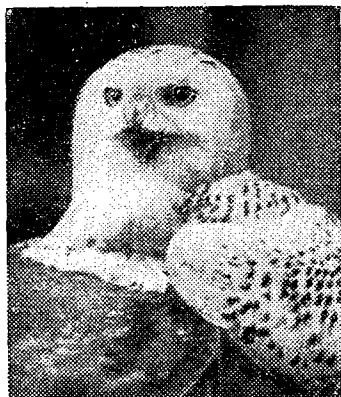
Two Cape penguins now nesting on the upper terrace of the Zoo's penguin pool do not soon reach a working agreement, neither will have a home in which to lay its eggs. Both birds began nesting early in the New Year, their kennels being several yards apart. Material used is mainly hay, which is thrown up on to the parapet each morning by the keeper. And, as soon as it arrives, each penguin seizes the stuff and carries it off to her nesting-box.

The point is, however, that neither nest grows any larger for the simple reason that, as soon as one penguin has finished building she toddles off to the gate to look for the arrival of the keeper with the day's fish supplies. Her rival then visits the unguarded

Here are the facts. The other day Billee laid four eggs under a bush and began to incubate them. After 24 hours, however, she got up, coolly smashed the lot, and is now back at her normal occupation of cadging titbits from visitors. "On the face of it, such behaviour looks a bit foolish, but we are not so sure about it," Headkeeper E. Stimpson told me. "It may be that Billee knows we are in for some cold weather yet, and that this would not be the best time to raise a family, and so she put 'paid' to her efforts before Nature did! It is not as though she were a confirmed egg-smasher, for last year she reared seven young."

FINALLY, what can one make of the behaviour of a pair of Snowy owls living in the owls' aviary in the north garden? Their conduct is strongly reminiscent of those little "house" barometers in which the "old man" appears in his doorway when the weather is going to be wet, and his wife shows up there when it is going to be fine.

The birds are both "cast-aways" from the Arctic. One arrived in March 1946, having alighted on a merchant vessel in the North Atlantic, and the other came in exactly similar circumstances a month later. At the Zoo the pair quickly chummed up, but—and this is the odd thing—they are seldom if ever outdoors together. When one is on the tree stump outside, its companion always roosts on the perch indoors. Whether their behaviour in any way suggests weather changes, however, is doubtful. When it is actually raining, both go indoors.



A Snowy Owl takes its turn on the tree stump

nest-box, stealthily tugs out all the hay, and carries it off triumphantly to her own home, which is later raided in precisely similar circumstances by Penguin Number 1. So it goes on, the "bedding" being stolen and re-stolen until it disintegrates!

"The situation would be laughable if it weren't so tragic," says Keeper H. Jones. "If there is no nesting material available and the birds have to lay their eggs upon the bare floor, the chances are that they will get broken. Then goodbye to our hopes of getting some more Cape penguin chicks!"

Oddities of bird behaviour such as this are often seen in the Gardens, and sometimes there is more than one at a time. Just now, there are no fewer than three, all happening together.

The second example concerns Billee, the Egyptian goose, who lives in a paddock near the north entrance gate. Is Billee clever, or "just plain daft?"

EARNING WHILE SLEEPING

FRENCHMEN who earn overtime pay while they are asleep in bed were referred to recently by a member of the National Assembly of France.

He said that whenever the Assembly sits until midnight, the pay of all the Assembly's staff is doubled for that day. The staff includes not only ushers and attendants, but the gardeners of Versailles Palace who are all in the habit of going to bed at 10 p.m. every day.



In a Cornish Cove

Watched by two small boys, a Cornish fisherman makes lobster pots on the foreshore at Sennen Cove

C N ASTRONOMER TELLS US HOW TO SEE...

SATURN WITHOUT HIS RINGS

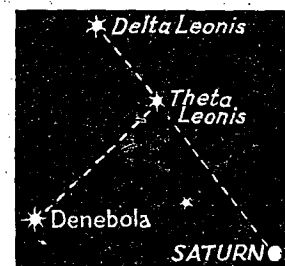
SATURN, now the most interesting of the visible planets, may be seen rather low in the eastern sky. He rises about 7.30 p.m., but it will be an hour or so later before he is much in evidence above the mists that are usually near the horizon.

The planet Mars is also coming into the evening sky. At present he does not rise until about two hours after Saturn and appears inconspicuous, but in a very few weeks' time Mars will rival Saturn, being better placed and a much more brilliant object. It will then be of great interest to note their relative movements.

Saturn, in the constellation of Leo, may be readily identified from the accompanying star-map and with the aid of the bright

star Denebola some way to the left and at a higher altitude. The planet's present distance from us is 786 million miles, and he is coming somewhat closer until March 7, when he will be at his nearest for this year.

Saturn's brilliance has been diminishing for the past seven years. This is due to the closing up of his Ring System, for we now view them almost edgewise. They present an enormous surface of bright light when observed at a considerable angle,



but become almost invisible when seen on end. This condition will be reached early in September next, when Saturn will appear too near the Sun to be visible.

At present these Rings—little more than a streak of light across the planet's disc and extending beyond each side—somewhat suggest a luminous pencil with both ends pointed thrust through a luminous orange.

This effect is enhanced by the presence of Saturn's moons, seven out of the nine being ordinarily visible. Thus the planet presents a spectacle that has not been seen for nearly fifteen years, the last occasion being in 1936.

The Rings are relatively thin—certainly not more than 100 miles in thickness—though they are of enormous extent. There are usually three distinct concentric Rings to be seen, with occasional traces of more. They are separated by two main divisions, the outer one (named Cassini's) being perceptible through a small astronomical telescope and dividing the outer Ring A from the middle Ring B, the space between being about 3000 miles across.

The outer Ring A presents a flat surface like a circular track and is about 10,000 miles wide, but the circle is 171,000 miles across. Within this is Ring B,

Life Among the Vikings of Jarlshof

THE annual Norse Festival of Up-Helly-A is being held at Lerwick this week, and the model Viking galley is set alight and pushed out to sea to symbolise an ancient custom of the inhabitants over 1000 years ago.

The way of life of these Norsemen is now being revealed by nearby excavations at Jarlshof (Earl's Court) at the Southern tip of Shetland, which has proved to be the most extensive Viking settlement yet explored in Europe. Covering an area of two acres, it had been occupied till at least the 10th century A.D.

The typical Viking dwelling was a long rectangular building with thick stone walls and strong wooden beams which supported a turf roof. Straw ropes were used to fasten down the turf roofing.

Each house consisted of two or three rooms—a large living-room, a smaller kitchen leading off it, and a room which was probably used for storage.

Down the centre of the living room ran a long, stone-lined hearth for heating and cooking purposes. On each side of this were platforms, on which, as we learn from the old Icelandic sagas, tables and benches were placed.

Peaceful Fishermen

From the numerous heaps of fish bones, the nails used in the construction of boats, and the stone sinkers used with fishing-net and line we learn that for the most part the inhabitants of Jarlshof were peaceable fishermen. Sinkers of the same type were being used in Shetland within living memory. The cattle which the Norsemen kept in their expertly-built byres and paved yards would provide a welcome change of diet.

The womenfolk, too, were kept busy. When they were not cooking over the long fires they would spin or weave clothes.

Then during the long, dark winters, when a storm whipped the waves into a white fury a stone's throw from their doors, no doubt men, women, and children would gather round to hear the ancient sagas of their people. They must also have played a game resembling chess, for slates marked out into small squares and several playing pieces as well as a dice have been found.

Nor were the Vikings of Jarlshof lacking in artistic talent. Pins with ornamented heads, delicately decorated bone combs, and a bone ornament exquisitely carved—all are evidence of an advanced civilisation.

ASTRONOMY—contd

the brightest, with a track about 16,000 miles wide.

Then within this is the innermost Ring C, the Cape Ring, about 11,000 miles wide. It is so called because it is dusky, but the sphere of Saturn can be seen through it.

The whole mass is in rapid rotation round Saturn's globe, the inner portion travelling much faster than the outer periphery. This is possible only because the Rings are composed of innumerable small moonlets, all speeding round Saturn, each in its own orbit.

G. F. M.

YOUNG PIPERS OF PATCHAM

THIRTY boys and girls between the ages of eleven and fourteen, pupils of Patcham County Secondary School, are busily rehearsing for the concert organised for the Non-Competitive Festival of the Brighton Schools Music and Drama Association, to be held at the Dome on March 16 and 17.

Pupils at this school are encouraged to belong to a series of clubs, each catering for some worthwhile hobby or occupation. The Pipers' Club is one, and members of it are all under an obligation to make their own pipes from lengths of bamboo,

with the holes in the right places; these, when finished, are attractively varnished and decorated, and effective pipes can be made for 1s 3d.

Miss D. V. West, of the Guild of Pipers, teaches these boys and girls, and she told the C.N. that they are immensely enthusiastic and extremely adaptable in learning how to play tunes from the notes set down on pieces of brown paper.

In this they are following in the tradition established by European peasants from earliest days on the Albanian hills and in Sicily.



A tune from the young pipers

All Eyes on the Empire Games in New Zealand

Nearly 600 specially-selected sportsmen and women of the British Commonwealth of Nations will next Saturday afternoon march onto the magnificent Eden Park Stadium, at Auckland, for the opening ceremony of the 1950 British Empire Games. The stage is set for the greatest Empire sporting event ever held.

The first inter-Empire sports meeting was held in 1911 at the Crystal Palace, to celebrate the Coronation of King George the Fifth. The series of British Empire Games, however, was not instituted until 1930, when the sports were held at Hamilton, Ontario. In 1934 the Games were staged at the White City in London, and four years later at Sydney, Australia.

Now it is New Zealand's turn, and, despite financial and travel difficulties, 12 countries have sent representatives to Auckland to compete for honours in athletics, cycling, boxing, wrestling, lawn bowls, swimming, diving, rowing, and sculling, as well as fencing and weight-lifting, which are new events for these Games.

The entry of nearly 600 competitors is a record for the Empire Games. New Zealand, as host, naturally has the greatest number—180 men and women. At the other end of the scale are the eight Malaysians, the four men from Nigeria, and the Fijian four, inferior only in numbers and certainly not lacking that indomitable sporting spirit which has always characterised these Games.

For a whole week Auckland will be a veritable City of Sport. The track and field athletics are to be staged at Eden Park, which can accommodate 60,000 spectators and has been the scene of many great international cricket and Rugby encounters. The cyclists will pedal for honours at the Western Springs Stadium, another splendid arena, with a track reputed to be even better than that of our own Herne Hill; and the road-race circuit will cover part of Auckland's famous waterfront.

The boxing and wrestling bouts will be at the fine Town Hall during the evenings; the weight-lifters will occupy the Concert chamber of the Town Hall; and the fencers will attract big audiences to the nearby Drill Hall.

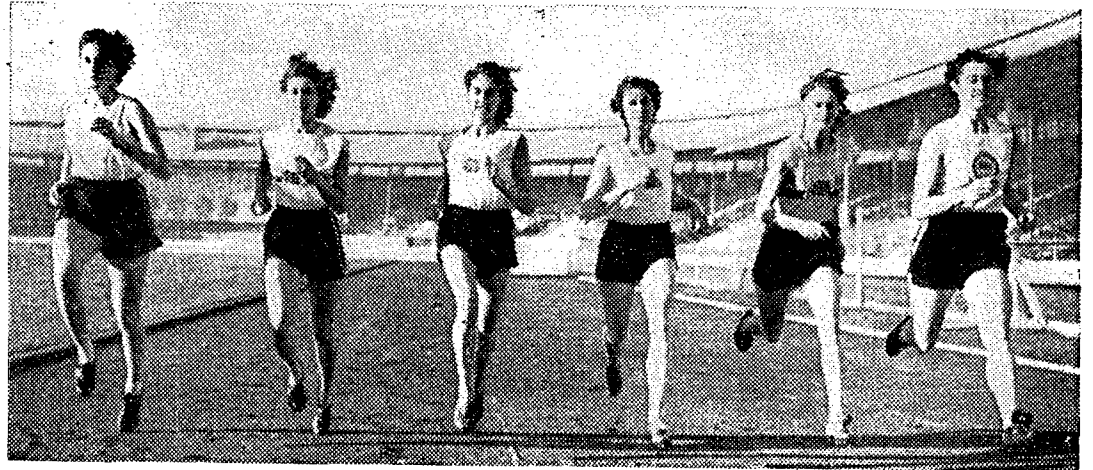
The lawn bowls are to be staged at the Carlton Green, one of the finest in the Empire; and the

swimming, diving, and water polo events will be watched by 5000 people at the Newmarket Olympic Pool, a magnificent bath 165 feet long and 50 feet wide. The rowers and scullers will contest their events on Lake Karapiro, a beauty spot some 95 miles from Auckland.

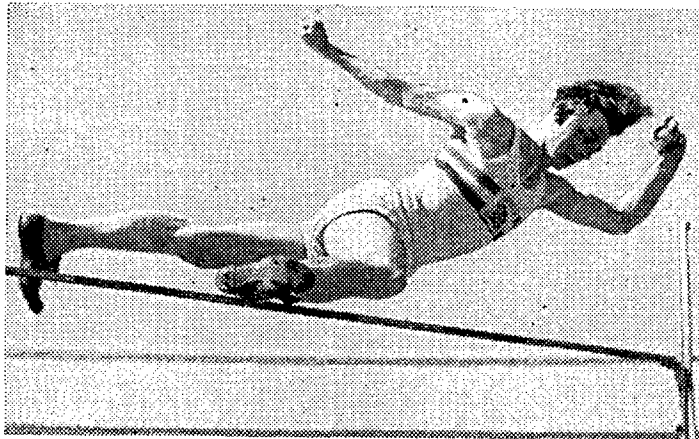
Now, what are the chances of the British representatives winning any of the titles? Our men and women will, of course, find very stern opposition, but optimistic reports have been coming in during the last few days from our representatives who are now



42-year-old Jack Holden, Britain's great Marathon runner



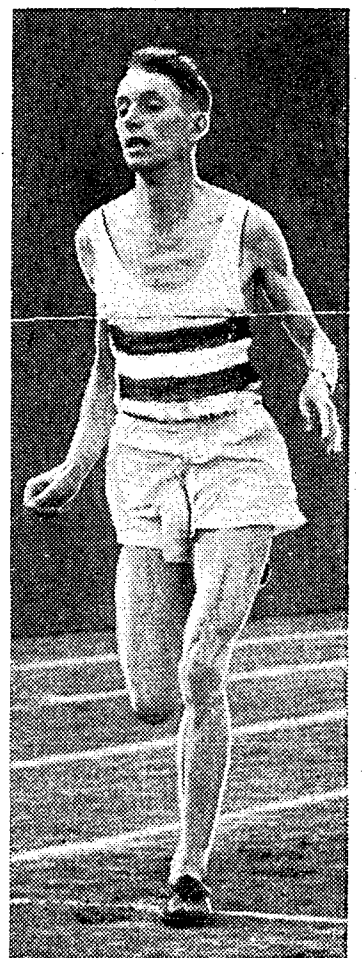
Women members of the team. From left to right: Jean Desforges, Doris Batter, Dorothy Manley, Margaret Walker, Dorothy Tyler, and Sylvia Cheeseman



Ron Pavitt clears the bar in fine style



Britain's rowing eight out for a practice spin



H. J. Parlett, our representative in the half-mile



An aerial view of Eden Park, Auckland



The ever-young Donald Finlay

completing their preparations in Auckland, after their long sea and air trips. Donald Finlay, at the age of 40, is competing in his third Empire Games, for he ran in the 120 yards hurdles in 1930, when Lord Burghley was the champion, and himself won the event in 1934. It would be a fitting finale to a brilliant career in international athletics if he could again triumph.

JOHN PARLETT is expected to do well in the half-mile; and so are Ron Pavitt, Peter Welis, and Alan Paterson in the high jump, though they will be competing against Australia's John Winter, the Olympic title holder. The Marathon also promises to be a terrific struggle, with our phenomenal 42-year-old champion, Jack Holden, and Welshman Tom Richards to set the pace; both are expected to add to their laurels.

It is a pity that Maureen Gardner (Mrs Dyson) could not travel with our women's team, but Dorothy Manley and Mrs Dorothy Tyler and their colleagues will take a lot of beating.

Rowing experts consider that England will be represented by one of the strongest crews in these events, but in the individual sculling races that wonderful Australian and Olympic champion, Mervyn Wood, may prove once more to be too strong for the opposition.

WHATEVER happens at Auckland, however, when the final event is staged at the Western Springs Stadium on February 11 many records will have been broken; and, more important than all the records, the countries of the British Commonwealth will have been drawn even closer together.



A Safe Passage

To safeguard children at busy street crossings Scotland Yard is organising special patrols. Here is Mrs Louisa Miléfanti shepherding children across the road at Southwark Park Schools, South London.

Pews or Chairs in Church?

A DISCUSSION as to whether old pews should be replaced by chairs in Chesterfield parish church took place at a recent Diocesan Court of Appeal. It was decided to keep the pews, though the Vicar said they were uncomfortable, impeded vision, and destroyed the proportions of the church.

On the other hand it was said that many churchgoers dislike chairs because they squeak and rattle.

Wooden pews were first introduced into our churches in the later Middle Ages. Previously most people stood in church when they were not kneeling, yet there were often stone seats against the walls for aged people or invalids (hence the saying the weakest go to the wall); and sometimes low stone seats were built round the bases of columns.

By 1287 churchgoers had begun to dispute about seats, for the record of a synod held then tells of "two or more persons claiming one seat," reminding us of the Spoonerism: "Sir, you are occupying my pie."

The synod of 1287 laid down that: "He who for the cause of

prayer shall first enter a church, let him select a place of prayer according to his will." But this excellent rule was not observed. Wealthy and powerful people, the Squire or Lord of the Manor, rich merchants and farmers, began paying rent for pews and putting an iron bar across the ends of two benches to keep other worshippers out.

Then they began building their own pews in churches. These private pews were large and often richly-carved wooden structures (later referred to as "horse-boxes"). Sometimes they were roofed with a canopy. They had doors which could be locked and inside some of them were fireplaces, tables, armchairs, cushions, curtains, and even a sofa!

The incongruity of class distinction in a Christian church was often criticised, one 17th-century bishop speaking of stately pews wanting nothing "but beds to hear the Word of God on."

The custom began to die out in the 19th century, and in 1865 the Free and Open Church Association was founded.

ELECTIONS IN BYGONE DAYS

THE General Election has a background in our history that is full of excitement and adventure.

We can no longer say, as Private Willis does in one of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, that every boy and every girl born into the world is either a little Liberal or else a little Conservative; that is a thing of the past, for other political parties now woo the electors for their votes.

Another thing of the past is the bribery and corruption prevailing at election times. The Eatanswill by-election in Pickwick Papers shows us what the conditions were—the kissing of babies, the candidates parading the streets to the accompaniment of brass bands, the secret locking-up of hostile voters, the bribing of the doubtful, the reward of the faithful.

All these things actually took place in real life; the dishonest tactics resorted to by one side were matched by tricks as unscrupulous on the other. Just before a certain by-election in

Yorkshire the younger Pitt, meeting a lady of the opposite party, assured her that the Tory candidate was certain to be elected. "for," said he, "ten thousand guineas for the use of our side go down to Yorkshire tonight by a sure hand." "Do they, indeed?" said the lady, and that night the man who carried the guineas was robbed by a highwayman on the Great North Road, and the money was used to enable the Whig to win the seat.

Such happenings, fortunately, are impossible today.

State Scholarships

At least 990 State scholarships to universities and university colleges in England and Wales will be offered this year on the results of the Higher School Certificate examination. Those who win these scholarships will study for Honours degrees.

This year it will be necessary for successful candidates to make their own arrangements for getting into a university or university college.

AN INDIAN JUBILEE

FIFTY years ago, in the early days of February 1900, a young American missionary doctor named Ida Scudder opened to sick people a little room in a bungalow at Vellore in South India. An Indian woman, a cook by trade, watched the doctor and helped her in bandaging patients.

That simple beginning led to a big idea, to a hospital where Indian men and women can be trained in a Christian atmosphere as doctors and nurses. Today in the town of Vellore stands a fine modern hospital with 468 beds and a large staff of doctors and nurses; and three miles away in the hills is the Medical College, the only Christian College in India which trains fully-qualified doctors.

Forty missionary societies in Britain and America help to support the Vellore College. All round the hospital and the college are scores of villages, and each week the students go out in trucks to visit them. Patients who are very ill must be brought to the hospital in bullock carts, and those with eye trouble are assembled in camps, where overnight as many as a hundred patients may be treated.

In Father's Footsteps

A VERY rare instance of a son attaining the same high office as his father has happened in New South Wales, where the new Chief Justice and Lieutenant Governor is the son of a former one.

The new Chief Justice is Mr Justice Kenneth Whistler Street, son of the late Sir Philip Street. Mr Justice Kenneth Street was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1931, when his father was Chief Justice. It is believed to be the only case in the British Commonwealth of father and son having sat together as members of the same High Court.

Home-Made Organ



Looking at this organ in a church at Lee, London, are Mr Lawrence Dixon and Mr A. W. Jinkings, who built it in their spare time. They used such things as old carpets, hats, bits of umbrellas, two harmoniums, and a washstand.

The Editor's Table

HEAR ALL SIDES

THE chief duty of Britain's electors in the next few weeks will be to listen to all sides of the argument in the election campaign.

On many things all parties are broadly in agreement, particularly those which care for the health and welfare of Britain's people. On other questions there are sharp differences of opinion about the way in which changes should be made.

Those changes finally come through voting. A mark on the ballot paper opposite a candidate's name is the chosen way of this country. No one is compelled to vote for a certain candidate! No one is compelled to vote at all. But a vote is a precious possession which everyone who has the right to it should use.

This election is an open debate. There are no secret fears of arrest for anything that may be said in public or private. The argument may be forceful, but it is free and above board. Decisions made by individual citizens are their decisions, and everyone respects them.

The world is watching this election, and by its conduct Britain will reveal the inner strength of its life and the manner in which a real democracy makes up its mind.

Armoury of Freedom

GUNS, ammunition, and naval and military might too frequently have been the armour by which men have won freedom. It is now becoming clear, however, that another armour is taking the field. It is the armour (according to Mr Noel-Baker, the Commonwealth Relations Minister) of "dams, tube wells, bulldozers, chemical manure, industrial plants, railways, and trucks." By these means the new countries of Asia are winning their economic freedom.

The whole continent of Asia is now on the march toward a higher standard of living, and all the British Commonwealth is pledged to help. In some parts of Asia four hundred babies in every thousand still die in infancy as against forty in Britain. In Ceylon, the average length of human life is 35 years, while in New Zealand it is 67.

All this can be changed by a war on disease and low standards of life. A powerful element in this armour is the International Labour Office which, Mr Noel-Baker says, stands for Imagination, Love, and Optimism in its service to the world's peoples. With that spirit widespread there will be greater hope for the less enlightened peoples of the world.

GENTLY DOES IT

BUT still remember, if you mean to please, To press your point with modesty and ease. William Cowper

Speed Limit in School

IT is surprising to learn that the space taken up in the average new school by corridors, lobbies, and so on, is almost one-third of the total floor area.

The Minister of Education revealed this recently when he said that it is proposed to reduce this "circulation space," as it is called, from 30 per cent to 20 per cent in future schools.

Whether narrower passages cause inconvenience depends on the rate at which people circulate.

Some folks we know circulate at a speed approaching jet propulsion—especially when it is time to go home—occasionally colliding with one another coming round the corner and scattering his or her books in all directions.

The Minister said that the reduction would in no way detract from the educational efficiency of the building—but narrower corridors, or fewer of them, will certainly mean slightly more sedate circulation.

BOYS WERE BOYS 4000 YEARS AGO

CLAY tablets found in the valley of the Euphrates tell the story of a day in the life of a boy 4000 years ago.

Before he goes to school the boy has to gulp his breakfast hurriedly and is rebuked for lateness; moreover, he is caned nine times during the day for misdemeanours which include talking and bad writing. Nevertheless, his father is pleased with his drawing, mathematics, and science, and in the evening, the teacher goes to the boy's home for a banquet.

Well, it seems that the nature of boys does not change much through the centuries—boys always would be boys; in fact, the only unfamiliar note on the tablets is the banquet for the teacher!

GOOD ENGLISH

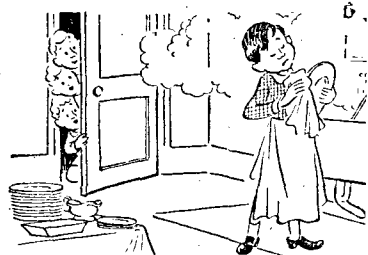
INTENSE study of the Bible will keep any writer from being vulgar, in point of style. S. T. Coleridge

Under the E

SOME people grumble at having to wait for new glasses. If they had them they could see why.

A MOTHER says her little boy is afraid of the sea. But one gets into hot water.

A BOY cycled 180 miles to watch a football match. Hope he got a kick out of it.



A MOTHER says her children take washing up. Spin it out?

THINGS SAID

I AM just an ordinary citizen with the greatest responsibility in the world.

President Truman

WE enter the last year of the first half of this war-torn century under dark skies and heavy clouds, but it is by no means too late yet to avert the storm.

Lord Montgomery

WE should no longer delude ourselves that we can keep out of European affairs. The free world, and particularly Western Europe, is now looking anxiously to us for a lead.

Robert Boothby, M P

IT must be, I submit, a sombre and warning thought to all of us as we grow older that the young may have to pay with their lives for the mistakes of judgment and understanding that we may make.

Sir Campbell Stuart

I HAVE not found boys so plentifully supplied with food from home that they go about giving away cake.

Headmaster of Shrewsbury

Room to Play

BRITAIN'S young people are keener than ever on games and physical recreations, and it is good news that a fine mansion with beautiful grounds, Lilleshall Hall, near Newport, Shropshire, has been acquired by the Central Council for Physical Recreation as a centre for training games' coaches, promising performers, and for youth leaders' courses in physical recreation.

In their annual Report, however, the Council point out that there is still a dearth of playing fields, swimming pools, gymnasia, and halls.

The Report urges that more space must be provided if all young people are to have an alternative to passive and uncreative leisure interests.

JUST AN IDEA

As Dr Johnson said, Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings.

Editor's Table

PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If umbrellas are
put up for sale



NOBODY likes a warm winter.
It gets a cool reception.

SENSITIVE people are easily
hurt. Those are usually the ones
who take pains.

HOLLAND is arranging a
seven-day tulip rally for
tourists. The idea is growing.

PRIDE is good up to a point.
Then you get stuck up.

THE British people have
long memories. And a
good stretch of imagination.

Candlemas and Silver Ball

THE feast of Candlemas (February 2), almost forgotten today though still marked in the Church Calendar, is a very ancient one. Records show that it dates from the 7th century, though the ceremony of blessing and distributing the candles cannot be traced farther back than the 12th century.

In bygone days, when lights were scarce in the homes, and winter gloom not yet past, this Feast of Lights was very welcome as a break between the joys of Christmas and the austerities of Lent.

At the ceremony in church the priest blessed the candles, lighting them from the altar. A candle was then handed on from one worshipper to another, each lighting his own candle at the flame. Processions were then formed, each member of the congregation carrying a lighted candle and walking round the church. This pretty custom symbolised the coming of the True Light, and was a sign that Christians should bear witness to it in a dark, pagan world.

A PICTURESQUE custom known as the Hurling of the Silver Ball takes place every year at St Ives in Cornwall on the first Monday after Candlemas. It begins with the mayor of the town throwing the ball to a crowd assembled in front of the Guildhall; and then the ball is thrown from person to person, nobody being allowed to retain it longer than is necessary to throw it away again.

The game goes on all the morning and towards noon there is a greater scramble for the ball than ever, for according to tradition the mayor must give a small money reward to whoever is in possession of the ball when twelve o'clock strikes.

BRITAIN AND EUROPE

AN impressive reminder of the great change in the position of Britain among the European nations was made recently by M. Spaak, formerly Prime Minister of Belgium.

"Great Britain, who for centuries has always been drawn into our quarrels, has always refused, however, to proclaim unreservedly her European character," he said. "Her dream, her policy, has always been to be the arbiter of our disputes."

"But times have changed and conditions are entirely new—a balance of power policy has become impossible. Great Britain can no longer be the beam of a balance, the scales of which no longer exist. She must be, herself, a positive and active element in Europe."

FROM EVERY QUARTER

NORTH winds send hail, South winds bring rain,
East winds we bewail, West winds blow amain;
North-east is too cold, South-east not too warm,
North-west is too bold, South-west doth no harm.

Thomas Tusser



What Offers!

Waste-paper baskets from the Aquitania, which is to be broken up. All her furnishings and fittings will be sold.

Ancient Charter Comes Back Home

A 600-YEAR-OLD charter has come home to stay in the Abbey Grammar School at Ramsey on the western edge of the Fens. It is a charter granted by Edward III in 1334 to the Abbot of Ramsey, confirming seventeen charters given to the Abbey in the preceding three centuries.

The charter is a single piece of parchment, 28 inches by 30, covered with lines of neat black-letter script, and with the great seal, still intact, fixed at the foot by thick silken cords.

It begins by stating that the king confirms the charters mentioned, and then goes on to repeat them all, word for word, the earliest being one granted in 1052 (Ramsey Abbey was founded in the tenth century). The first charters are in Anglo-Saxon, and are specially interesting because they give the pre-Domesday Book spelling of the names of several local villages.

Ramsey Abbey, one of the great religious houses of the country, flourished right up to the time of the Dissolution. Then it was sold, and the great buildings (except for a gateway and a part which had become the parish church of St Thomas à Becket) became a quarry; some of its stones were used for colleges in Cambridge.

During the 19th century the few remaining fragments of the Abbey were incorporated in a large house, the home of the Baron de Ramsey; but a few years ago this was taken over for use by the Grammar School.

The old charter has been handed by its owner, Mrs Hoskins, to the school for safe keeping, and has been placed in an oak case in the entrance. There it will remain, to remind the pupils of the long history of Ramsey Abbey.

Good Handwriting

We have asked Sir Sydney Cockerell, the well-known authority on beautiful printing and handwriting, to write the following article, which will be of especial interest to all CN readers who are taking part in the Handwriting Competition for 1950 announced on page 9.

ROBERT BRIDGES, Poet Laureate, printed in 1926 and 1927 two Tracts on English Handwriting containing facsimiles of examples that he thought worthy of commendation. In the preface to the first of these tracts he declared that illegibility in writing to a stranger was an unpardonable breach of good manners. There is no doubt that in too many of our schools this dictum had not been taken to heart. Writing is tolerated that, besides being ill-formed, is slovenly, slipshod, and clumsy, and the pupil has no idea that he is forming a habit that will tell against him all his life.

Of First Importance

What, then, should be aimed at by both teacher and taught? Legibility is, of course, the first thing. Every letter should be distinctly formed in such a way that it cannot be mistaken for any other letter. It ought not, for instance, to be possible to mistake a "u" for an "n," or vice-versa. If all such confusions are avoided, and words and lines are well spaced, the primary object of handwriting is accomplished, and the reader can have no cause for complaint.

Nevertheless, such a piece of legible writing would not have attracted the attention of Robert Bridges if it had not one or more other qualities. These are beauty, character, and style. To write beautifully as well as legibly requires much practice, some study of fine examples, and a good deal of zeal. At one famous public school there has been great emulation in the last few years to excel in this respect, with the result that many boys

have acquired beautiful handwriting that no one could fail to admire and that will be a great asset to them as long as they live. For a beautiful script may easily make all the difference when two applicants of otherwise equal qualifications are seeking the same appointment. I have heard of an instance of its determining a choice between fifty competitors.

Style and character, the other factors I have mentioned, must come largely of themselves as part of the individual make-up. We all know what style is in cricket, in tennis, in dancing, in skating, and even in ordinary gestures—a subtle perfection of which the possessor is hardly conscious. This is a quality of the best handwriting. So is character, which is the personal stamp that makes one piece of good penmanship differ from another that may lack it, and that enables one to recognise and name the writer as often as one sees an example of his script.

Write Clearly

But in seeking these qualities there are some pitfalls. One feels that some scripts on which much effort has been spent are a little affected, are too self-conscious. An air of spontaneity must be aimed at. Above all there must be a total absence of swagger. Pretentious signatures are apt to give a bad impression. And illegible signatures, or illegible initials, which baffle the reader, are (to return to Robert Bridges) sheer bad manners. There is no excuse for them, unless the writer suffers from some physical disability that prevents his writing clearly.

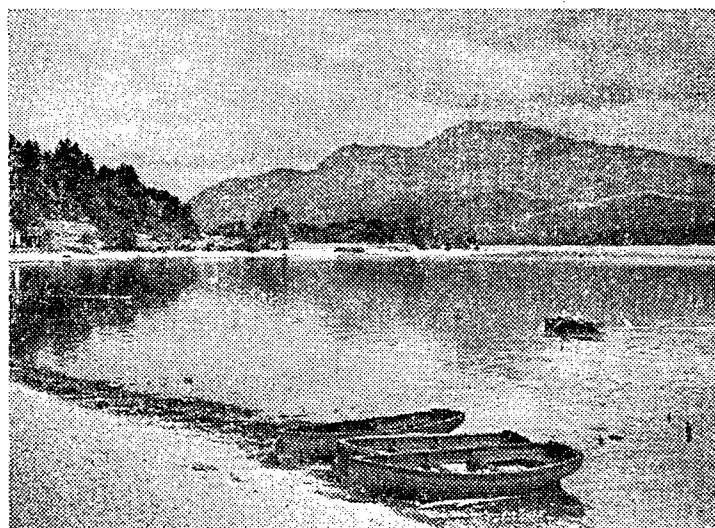
RAIN TO ORDER

DURING the drought of last summer Farmer Burns of Broomlees Farm, Elie, in Fife, surveyed his parched fields and wondered if there was anything he could do to save his crops. Then he glanced toward nearby Kilconquhar Loch and thought that if he could find a way of distributing some of that water over his land his problem would be solved.

So Mr Burns ordered a quarter of a mile of light alloy piping

and a 26 h.p. water pump. With these he was able to draw water from the loch to his land at the rate of 400 gallons a minute. Then, by using gigantic automatic sprays, he was able to water his land.

As a result of his artificial rain-making, Farmer Burns was able to produce the best crop of carrots in Fife, and he now finds that the spraying has increased his crops by at least a third.



OUR HOMELAND

Loch Lomond seen from Luss, with Ben Lomond in the background

Pensioners of the King

Nor everyone knows that the King has a private list of pensioners!

The Royal Almonry Office at Buckingham Palace is now issuing application forms for the benefit of old folk in need, and this is an interesting survival of the days when the Royal Palace was besieged by beggars. Indeed, one of these allowances is still called the Royal Gate Alms because it was formerly handed out at the Palace gates; only sixpence a week, it is paid twice a year in lump sums.

One kind of pension, styled the Royal Common Bounty, amounts to ten shillings a year; another is the Royal Discretionary Bounty—£3 a year. Then there are Royal Pensions, of either £5 or £10 each, paid in two instalments, and sums of £10 towards the education of children between the ages of 7 and 15.

There is no lack of applicants for the Maundy Pension, for this is more highly prized than any. The number of recipients, men and women, corresponds with the King's age, and the Maundy Money, totalling about £5, is handed over in coloured purses with great ceremony on the Thursday before Good Friday; but part of it is paid in special silver coins, called Maundy pence, greatly valued by collectors.

AUSTRALIA ON VIEW

A new relief map of Australia, eight feet by six feet, is now on view in the Australian Court of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington.

This map also shows Australia's Dependencies and nearly the whole of New Zealand.

Dotted about on the map are over 100 small models of sheep, cattle, horses, and so on, which are placed in the appropriate positions to indicate where the primary industries are carried on.

The most famous lighthouse of antiquity was built at Alexandria in the 3rd century B.C. It was said to be 600 feet high, and in windows facing seaward fires were kept burning at night.



Pioneers



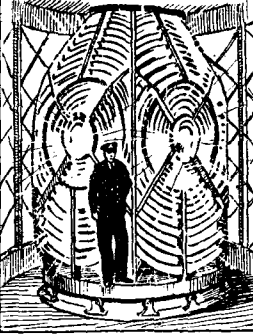
One of the earliest lighthouses to be built in England was the pagoda-like tower of Henry Winstanley, on the Eddystone rocks. Completed in 1700, it was wrecked in the great storm of 1703.

21. The men who gave us Lighthouses



The lighthouse which replaced it was destroyed by fire in 1755. In 1756 John Smeaton began his famous stone lighthouse. Built like an oak tree, dovetailed to the rock, it stood for over 120 years.

In 1882 it was replaced by the present lighthouse. Smeaton's 24 candles have given place to a light of 292,000 candle-power. Many lighthouses give lights of as much as 30,000,000 candle-power.



SEA OF WATER IN A SEA OF SAND

PROFESSOR WELLINGTON of the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa has been describing the watery delta of the Okavango, which he saw during his visit to the great Kalahari Desert.

For 1000 miles the Kalahari stretches northwards towards Central Africa, and its breadth is 600 miles. From the Orange River in the south to beyond the Zambesi the only rock outcrops are little kopjes that raise their heads like islands in the sea, and over all the miles of sand through which Professor Wellington travelled in his motor-truck grow a fine grass, great thorn trees, and karroo bushes. But in the north the desert gives way to a vast swamp with a large river, the Okavango, emptying itself into the sand. Parallel with the Zambesi the Okavango pours 14,000 cubic feet of water every second into its vast sandy delta.

Canoe Journey

In a long thin canoe poled by two swamp-dwellers, Professor Wellington penetrated this swampy fastness. Its tangle of reeds, bushes, and water vegetation blocks many of the river channels, but the steady flow of water helps a canoe along.

Another professor of geography, Dr Debenham of Cambridge, recently penetrated into a similar vast swamp, the Bangweulu swamps in Northern Rhodesia, and both explorers comment on the waste of water in the heart of a continent which is sorely in need of water.

Useless River

Rising in the mountainous highlands of Portuguese Angola, where a summer's rainfall is as much as sixty inches, the Okavango is one of the world's useless rivers. The lie of the land turns it towards the desert of the Kalahari instead of towards the Atlantic Ocean; it discharges itself into a sea of sand instead of into a sea of salt water. So it has flowed for centuries, creating for itself a delta covering 5000 square miles in the Kalahari desert and gradually losing itself beneath the sands.

Noting the flow of the water as he paddled through the delta channels, Professor Wellington estimated that there was sufficient water to cover ten million acres a foot deep. That means that three million acres could be covered with three feet of water a year.

Matching his mathematics with his knowledge of rivers, he also

calculated that the gradient of the flow was a foot to the mile, which leads him to believe that this vast, unproductive area could be successfully drained and used to produce rice, sugar, and cotton; and a wonderful transformation this would be, for the delta at present is a haunt of crocodiles, hippos, and fish-hawks. The swamp men are expert at fish-spearing, and on island strips of dry land they struggle to produce small crops of food.

Potential Prairie

Plunging his instruments below the water, Professor Wellington found a sandy soil, covered with a layer of humus, and deep clay below that. So he concludes that the delta of the Okavango is a potential prairie. Its waters now are aimless and unfruitful, but careful irrigation could turn this swampy region of the desert into another Egypt, where the Nile is such an essential life-giver to crops in what would otherwise be desert land.

All this exploration of Africa's swamps reveals how much unused productive power lies in the great continent, waiting to be harnessed to the needs of the human race.

The Risks of Travel

A curious story lies behind the purchase by the Lancashire County Council of the Park Hotel, Preston. The hotel stands in beautiful parkland through which, across the River Ribble, the town of Preston is reached. How came a great hotel in that out-of-the-way situation, where the town's population is thinnest?

It is a reminder of the days when our ancestors thought that stage-coach travel from London to York, taken without rest, would inevitably "cause apoplexy." When, therefore, the old London and North Western Railway built its line from London to Scotland, it was generally thought that unless one broke the long journey halfway, and rested and slept, illness must result. So this fine hotel in its park at Preston was built.

But people risked the through journey between the English and Scottish capitals; the hotel lost its purpose and was not generally used as a halfway house. It has now been bought as offices for the Lancashire County Council, and the last link is snapped with the old legend of the "frightfulness" of long-distance railway travel.

PROPOSAL TO REVIVE THE SANHEDRIN

THE Minister for Religious Affairs of Israel recently urged the restoration of the Sanhedrin, the ancient Jewish tribunal, which has not sat as a priestly court since A.D. 70.

The Minister said that only orthodox Jews would make use of the tribunal, if it were re-constituted, and it would issue decrees concerning Jewish religious life.

In Biblical times the Sanhedrin was the highest national tribunal of the Jews, and consisted of priests, elders, scribes, and other learned men.

It was before the Sanhedrin that Christ was brought to trial.

TREASURE ISLAND—R. L. Stevenson's Famous Adventure Story Told in Pictures (First Instalment)

Jim Hawkins was an 18th-century boy who lived at a lonely inn kept by his parents on the Somerset coast. One day there came to stay at the inn a rough, roistering old sailor named Billy Bones, who seemed to have been a desperate character, and to have come to this secluded

spot to escape his enemies. He was particularly afraid of a man with one leg and told Jim to keep a sharp look-out for this person. Before long Billy Bones died, and Jim and his Mother felt justified in going through his sea-chest to get the money owing to them, for Bones had

not paid his bill. In the chest Jim found a bundle tied up in oilcloth. This, it seemed, was what Bones' enemies had been anxiously seeking. Jim took it to Squire Trelawney's house. The Squire had his friend Dr Livesey, a magistrate, visiting him that evening.



Dr Livesey opened the bundle and found a chart showing where Flint, a notorious pirate, had buried his vast treasure before he died. With this chart in his chest, Bones had had good reason to fear rival pirates finding him. The Squire was an impulsive man and he declared he would fit out a ship at Bristol and take Jim and the Doctor with him to search for the treasure. The Doctor agreed and Jim was tremendously excited.



Trelawney went to Bristol and acquired a fine ship, the Hispaniola. They had agreed to keep their mission a dead secret, but Trelawney was a talkative man and soon everyone in Bristol knew he was after treasure. When Jim arrived there he found the ship's cook, "Long John" Silver, was a man with one leg! Silver, however, seemed a very pleasant fellow and he took a great fancy to Jim, who was to be ship's boy.



The Hispaniola left Bristol and at sea proved herself a splendid sailer. Trelawney was pleased with his crew—mostly recruited by John Silver. He treated them generously and even had a barrel of apples kept on deck from which they could help themselves. One evening Jim went for an apple, but finding the barrel nearly empty he climbed inside to get one. Then Long John and another man came and sat down nearby.



Jim was about to jump out of the barrel when something that Long John said made him stay inside. Silver was plotting to seize the ship, when the treasure was aboard, and to kill the Squire, Dr Livesey, and Captain Smollett, whom Trelawney had engaged to navigate the ship. It was clear that most of the crew were on Silver's side. Then the cunning old rogue asked his companion to get him an apple from the barrel! Jim heard the other man rise.

Will Jim be discovered by these ruthless plotters? See next week's instalment of this thrilling story

The Children's Newspaper, February 4, 1950

"It feels sort of funny to be here," said David slowly, looking out of the hotel window at the bustle of Hamburg.

Jane glanced up from her magazine. "How do you mean?" "Hamburg..." he answered. "Do you remember during the war—when we were just kids—they used to give it out on the wireless?"

"The air raids? Yes, I see what you mean. Daddie used to fly over here with the R.A.F."

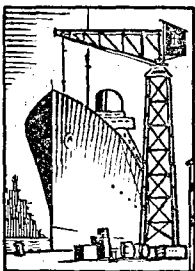
"I never thought I should come to Hamburg."

"I wonder if Daddie did—come this way, that is. I hope it won't upset him," she added thoughtfully.

"Seeing all the bomb damage, you mean?"

"Yes. It may give him rather a queer feeling. Six or seven years ago he was up there in a plane, helping to smash the

JANE & DAVID ON TOUR WITH THE OPERA



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Friendship With a Hamburger

place. Now he's a sort of guest of honour, conducting operas at the theatre."

"War's crazy," said David. "Thank goodness it's over. The thing now is to make friends. Come to think of it, music's a jolly good way—it's a kind of international language. Though

Mum and Dad sing their words in English, the tune's the same for the audience, whatever country we're in."

"I often think that—and I envy Daddie when he stands up to conduct the overture. I wish I'd got a way to talk to foreigners like that."

"It would be useful," David

agreed with a grin. "But if you and I started warbling or whistling in the street, I don't think somehow the Germans would understand."

"Seriously, though—" Jane closed her magazine.

"Well?"

"Let's make a resolution, Dave."

"What?"

"To make some friends, somehow, while we're in Hamburg. As we did with Peer Olsen in Copenhagen, and the Sandvigs in Norway... only it's specially important here."

"Why?"

"Don't you see? Because this is"—she paused and glanced round the hotel lounge—"this is an ex-enemy country! Oh, I know we've been in Italy and Finland already, but they weren't quite like Germany. There wasn't the same hatred—all the fearful air raids on both sides to—"

"H'm. Yes. See what you mean." He wrinkled his brow. "It's harder to make friends with the Germans again—and so it's all the more important. Pity neither of us learns German at school!"

"I bet plenty of Hamburg kids learn English. They're supposed to be awfully hot on foreign languages."

"We always have to depend on the other people learning our language," said David ruefully. "But that's the British all over. And of course the company's not touring the country where I can talk my one other language fluently."

Jane looked surprised. "Where on earth's that?"

"Wales!"

"Oh, you are an idiot, Dave!" she laughed. "Well, we shall have to manage as best we can. Come on, let's go out and have a look at Hamburg."

CONDITIONS, however, did not favour Jane's scheme.

To start with, Hamburg was a huge city, grey, shabby, and bustling. Compared with it, the towns of Scandinavia had been like leisurely, well-laid-out garden suburbs.

The Hamburgers—if that was the right name for the citizens ("It makes them sound like sausages!" Jane giggled)—looked brisk, anxious, businesslike people, hurrying along the wet pavements on their own affairs.

"I can imagine now," said David, "what a foreigner feels like when he lands in the middle of London or Liverpool or Manchester! People haven't time to bother with him, as they would in Canterbury or Stratford-on-Avon."

A February drizzle was coming down, fine as mist. It gleamed on their coats and gloves and the tips of their noses. It was a horrible day.

"If it had been sunny," said Jane, "we could have gone and sat in a park. We could easily have made friends there—you've only to pat somebody's dog, or throw them back their ball."

JANE shivered. It was no day for the park.

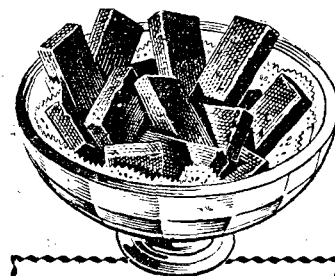
"If it hadn't been for this drizzle," said David, "we could have gone down the Elbe in one of those water-buses. It would have been jolly interesting, seeing all the docks and the big liners—"

"And what about making friends with the Germans?" Jane

Continued on page 13

Ask Mother to make these OFF-RATION SWEETS!

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3 tablesp. sweetened condensed or evaporated milk
1 good dessertsp. Bournville Cocoa
4 tablesp. water. 1 oz. margarine
3 oz. sugar. 1 teasp. vanilla essence

Put all the ingredients into a 6" saucepan. Warm gently until the sugar is dissolved, then boil briskly about 12 minutes. Stir the fudge continuously and reduce the heat a little towards the end of the cooking when the mixture will become very thick. Test in the same way as toffee. Then remove the pan from the heat and well beat the fudge until it is almost setting. Pour it quickly into a greased tin and mark in squares before it sets.



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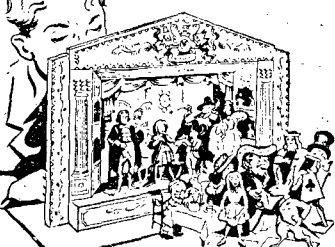
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Test of 1950

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SCHOOLS & PUPILS

THIS week Children's Newspaper announces the second annual C N handwriting contest for schoolgirls and schoolboys under seventeen. As with the highly successful writing test held last year, this is a nation-wide contest designed to encourage boys and girls to write well; and schools and teachers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and also Eire, and the Channel Islands are invited to co-operate.

There is NO Entry Fee, and the competition is open to all full-time pupils of schools and colleges in this area who are under 17 years of age.

As 1950 is the year of the Children's Safety Campaign, the well-known "Kerb Drill" has been selected and adapted as the Test Passage to be written. Each entrant has simply to copy out this Passage—which is given on the Entry Form—in the style of writing he or she is taught at school.

Entry Forms will be issued only through schools, but each pupil's entry will be judged as his or her personal effort. Over 1250 prizes, totalling more than £750 in value, will be awarded for the best entries.

To give an equal opportunity to all, there are THREE AGE CLASSES with cash prizes for both pupils and schools—you can thus win for yourself and your school! Here is the full prize list:

GROUP A for Pupils under 8

FIRST PRIZES—

To the School .. £25
Prize-winning Pupil .. £5

SECOND PRIZES—

To the School .. £10
To the Pupil .. £3

THIRD PRIZES—

To the School .. £5
To the Pupil .. £2

GROUP B for Pupils of 8 to under 12

FIRST PRIZES—

To the School .. £25
Prize-winning Pupil .. £5

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To the School .. £10
To the Pupil .. £3

THIRD PRIZES—

To the School .. £5
To the Pupil .. £2

GROUP C for Pupils of 12 to under 17

FIRST PRIZES—

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A Certificate of Merit will be awarded for the best entry from each school submitting no fewer than 20 entries and not represented in the above prize list.

Readers are asked specially to note that entries must be made on the free Entry Form which is issued only through schools. If you would like to enter, therefore, show this announcement to your Teacher and ask him or her kindly to complete the coupon here and send it to C.N.

Remember, there is an age group for you. The test may be done in school or at home, at the discretion of the Teacher, who is asked to sign the entry on completion.

When sent in every entry is to have affixed to it one of the tokens (marked C N Writing Test 1950) now appearing in every copy of the Newspaper. You will find one at the foot of the back page of this issue.

The Closing Date for entries is Friday, March 31. When returned, each completed entry is to be sent in as part of the school's total entry, in accordance with the competition rules printed on the Entry Form.

TO TEACHERS! The Entry Form to be used in this competition contains the Test Passage, space for the pupil's effort, and full rules and particulars. It is being issued only in answer to school application! Teachers desiring to enter their pupils are asked to be good enough to complete this application coupon, and send it to Children's Newspaper as soon as possible. The forms will then be sent post free. Last date for form applications, February 28.

(N.B.—A 1d stamp only is required if the envelope is left unsealed.)

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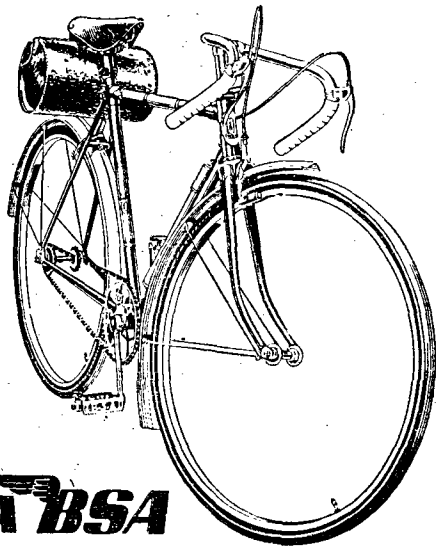
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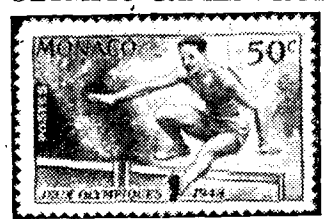


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WINDSOR STAMP CO. (DEPT. CN), UCKFIELD, SUSSEX

Friendship With a Hamburger

Continued from page 9

reminded him with a twinkle in her eye.

"I was coming to that," he retorted. "It's always easier to get talking to strangers when you're in something like a motor-launch."

"All in the same boat, as the saying goes?" she chuckled.

But it was certainly no day for the river.

After half an hour the rain drove them into a café for shelter. They hesitated for a moment in the doorway, chose a table already occupied by an old gentleman and a schoolboy, and made a bee-line for the two vacant chairs.

They had no sooner sat down than the old gentleman rose, clapped on his hat, and departed, followed by the boy. David looked at Jane and shrugged his shoulders. It was their unlucky day.

A WAITER appeared. They bowed their heads hurriedly over a phrase-book. "Ober, ein Glas Limonade, bitte," David mumbled. Jane ordered "eine Tasse Tee."

"Certainly," said the waiter in good English, smiling, "just like the tea you have at home!"

"We might try talking to him," David whispered.

"He looks far too busy to talk," she said despondently. "Still, it would be something if we could make a nice impression on him—show him that English people are just ordinary human beings like himself."

This was hardly necessary, as it turned out. When the lemonade and tea arrived, and Jane congratulated the waiter on his English, he smiled sadly and answered, before rushing off to another customer:

"But no wonder! I was prisoner-of-war for three years near Oxford!"

No sooner had they settled to their drinks than a shadow fell across the table and a burly figure dropped into a chair opposite. They glanced up hopefully, but the hope died as they saw the khaki uniform and a voice said:

"English, aint yer? Mind if I join yer?"

At any other time an old English sergeant-major, full of amusing stories and adventurous memories, would have been most welcome. But they knew that so long as he stayed there was even less chance of making friends with the Hamburg people. He must have sensed that their minds were wandering for he quickly drank up his coffee, said: "Well, better be goin', I s'pose—give my love to Leicester Square!" and marched out, shifting his beret to a jauntier angle.

Jane and David looked round the café. There were plenty of vacant tables, and no reason why anyone else should come and sit at theirs.

"This is a wash-out," said David disgustedly. "We might as well go back."

"Let's wait till the rain slackens."

"All right, but it's pretty boring here."

"I know what we can do," she suggested. "You've often promised to teach me chess. Look, there's some people playing over there—and several sets that nobody's using. Let's get one."

So David obediently brought over a board and box of chessmen; set them up in order, and began to explain the moves.

"These little chaps are the

Continued on page 11

BEDTIME CORNER

They Called Him Dr Portly

It all happened when they had measles. Ann had it first, and as soon as she was well enough she went to stay with Granny at her seaside house. Then, the very next morning, both Christopher and baby Colin had measles, too.

Poor Mummie was kept very busy all day getting them drinks, and tucking them up when they felt shivery, and untucking them when they were too hot. But, of course, she had to stay with Colin most, so Christopher was rather lonely without Ann.

In the night he woke up feeling miserable and shivery, and could not get to sleep again. So at last he began to call for Mummie to come and fill his hot-water bottle. He called so softly, though, for fear of waking Colin, that she never heard him.

But Mr Portly did. And then, because tired Mummie had forgotten to shut the

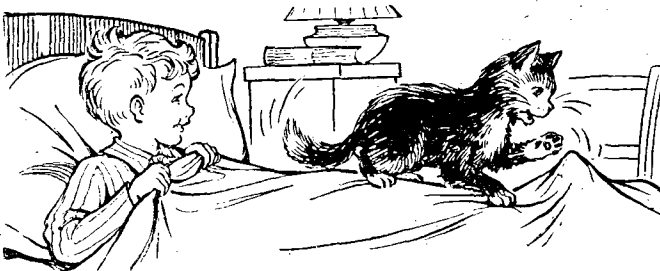
kitchen door, he was able to go and investigate.

Patter! Patter! Patter! Up the stairs he went. Christopher's door had been propped open, so in he trotted. Then up on to the bed with a little "Meow-ow-ow!" he leapt, and began to lick Christopher's cheek.

That cheered Christopher up at once. And when, after a chat, Mr Portly curled up across his legs, Christopher was soon warm and asleep.

Until Christopher was better Mr Portly was often allowed to stay with him. Mr Portly played Hunt the Toes on the bed when Christopher felt like it, and slept on a paper Mummie put on the quilt for him.

And the day Christopher got up Mummie said: "Well, Mr Portly's been as good as a doctor in looking after you!" So for weeks afterwards they called him Doctor Portly for fun! JANE THORNICROFT



The Children's Newspaper, February 4, 1950



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Friendship With a Hamburger

Continued from page 10

pawns—like the infantry. They move one square at a time, straight forward—only when they go over the top, so to speak, at the start of the game, they can move two squares...

Chess was very popular at David's school, and he had been soundly taught by a master who was a county champion. He was not destined to pass on much of his knowledge to Jane that day. He had no sooner launched into an explanation of the word "checkmate" than they became aware of a third figure at the table—a bronzed, blond-haired lad in a peaked school-cap, whose blue eyes were bent on the chessboard with a yearning expression.

Suddenly, as though he could contain himself no longer, he caught up two of the pawns and held out his closed fists to David. The Welsh boy stared for a moment, then understood, and pointed to the German's left hand. The fingers promptly unclenched to reveal a black chessman. Without more delay the young German slid into an empty chair opposite, and began to set up the white pieces.

"Do you speak English?" Jane inquired. The German smiled and shook his head.

It did not seem to matter in the least. David set up the black pieces and the game began. It went on in complete silence apart from grunts. After ten minutes it was clear that David had been checkmated.

They played again. This time, after a murderous game with a massacre of pieces on both sides, the German shrugged his shoulders, laughed, and put out his hand to congratulate David.

Other people, young and old, began to cluster round the table. Jane found herself in the centre of an intent group. The third game proceeded amid a mounting excitement. Suddenly David leant forward and made a quick, decisive move with one of his bishops. The little crowd burst into delighted applause.

AFTER that day they were never friendless again while they remained in Hamburg. Chess, like music, proved to be a language understood everywhere. David had only to set up the pieces, and someone willing to play would quickly appear.

"I'm going to learn this game," vowed Jane enviously.

"You'll need to be good," David warned her. "Some of these chaps are real hot stuff!"

And in his eyes was that glint of admiration which is so often the beginning of friendship.

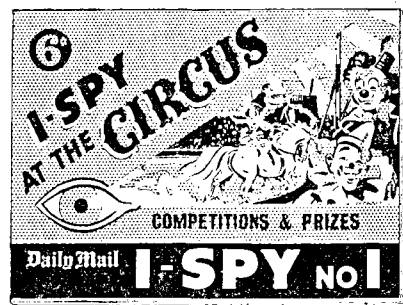
Next week Jane and David will be in Amsterdam. Do not miss their grand adventure.

STUDY ABROAD

VALUABLE information about opportunities for young people to travel and study in other countries is given in an international handbook, Study Abroad (Stationery Office, 6s), compiled by Unesco.

It gives details of about 22,000 fellowships and scholarships awarded in various parts of the world to enable people to study in foreign countries; and there is also a list of over 180 organisations concerned with the travel of young people in Western Europe.

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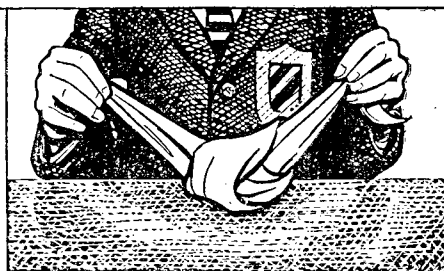
What fun you'll have watching Gumsters trying to tie a knot in a handkerchief—without letting go of the ends!

1. Borrow a large handkerchief. Ask a Gumster to hold one end in each hand. Now ask him to tie a knot in it without letting go. Let all the Gumsters try. Watch them tie themselves in knots!

2. Now show how easy it is. Just fold your arms and while they're still folded, pick up the ends of the handkerchief.



3. Unfold your arms. Zowie—there's the knot in the handkerchief!



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THE BRAN TUB

PREVENTION

The foreman found one of his workmen having a rest during working hours.

"I thought you said you never got tired!" thundered the foreman.

"Quite right!" was the reply. "I always stop and rest before I get tired."

Riddle-My-Name

My first's in boat but not in ship;

My next is in both grasp and grip;

My third's in hail and rain, not snow;

My fourth is in both bread and dough;

My fifth's in gander and in goose;

My sixth, in tied as well as loose;

My last is found in great, not big;

Together she will make Bert dig!

Answer next week

RODDY



"I'm waiting to hear this one, call the kettle black, Mummie!"

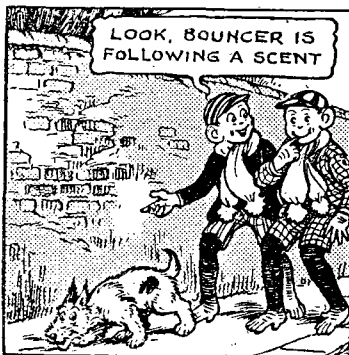
A CATCH

Test your friends with this little problem.

A man was asked how many children he had and replied: "I have six sons and every son has a sister." How many children has he?

Most people will say twelve, but the answer, of course, is seven—for the man had six sons and one daughter.

Jacko and Chimp on the Trail



Jacko and Chimp grew attentive as Bouncer suddenly began sniffing.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Moles and Hard Weather. "I hope the frosty weather holds: I want to try my new skates," said Don to Farmer Gray.

"I want the snow to stay," chimed in Ann, thinking of her sledge.

"You'll both be disappointed, I'm afraid," replied the farmer, nodding towards several small heaps of freshly-turned earth which showed black against the snow. "The Moles are active—that indicates a thaw."

"Jim says Moles store worms to eat during hard weather. Do they?" asked Ann.

"It is a point on which authorities differ," answered Farmer Gray. "Such store chambers do exist, but whether they are exceptional or the rule seems open to doubt."

ANAGRAM

THESE you'll find, when someone knocks,

On the mat or in the box.

Tear to bits and mix them well:

He went in lands afar to dwell.

Chop him up (at least, his name!)

And make a hinged supporting frame.

Answer next week

Quiet at Last

THE very talkative know-all young man was watching the planes at London Airport. Four places were drawn up on the tarmac and the noise of their engines was deafening.

"What a din!" yelled the young man. "I can hardly hear myself talk!"

"Don't worry!" remarked a long-suffering bystander. "You are not missing much!"



Bouncer got the scent and dashed off with Jacko and Chimp following.

Two Words in One

IT is what all great people have. Take away its first syllable, which is a kind of hat, and the word which is left will have the same meaning as the whole.

Answer next week

RUBBISH

THE distinguished writer entered the room to see the new maid burning some papers in the grate.

"I hope you are not burning any of my manuscripts," he exclaimed.

"It's all right, sir," replied the girl. "I'm only burning those covered with writing; I've not touched the clean paper."

Musical Mystery

A CRAZY old pianist named Prout,

Would thump on the keyboard and shout.

But what he was playing And what he was saying, Nobody could ever make out.

TAX TALLIES

IN bygone days taxpayers did not get a receipt from the Exchequer but received one half of a tally stick. The stick was about six inches long and written on it in ink were the name of the taxpayer and the amount he had paid.

Notches were cut along the stick, which was then split down the middle, one half being kept by the taxpayer and one half going to the Exchequer. Thus, if any dispute arose the two halves could be produced and checked to see if their records tallied.

DISASTER

BIGGS: I haven't seen you for ages, old man.

HIGGS: No; I've been in bed for more than a month.

BIGGS: Flu?

HIGGS: Yes; and crashed.

Don't You?

WHAT knitting can you do Without your hands? "What next?"

You ask, but it is true, You knit your brows when vexed!

SPORTS GEAR

THE girl driver had been involved in a slight car mishap.

"What gear were you in at the time of the accident?" asked the insurance man who came to see her.

"Tennis frock, cardigan, and beret," was the young lady's innocent reply.

WARMING THE POT

You may have wondered why Mother pours hot water into the teapot before making the tea.

This is because the water must actually be at boiling point to extract the full flavour from the leaves. A cold teapot would take some of the heat from the water as it was poured in and reduce the temperature from boiling point.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Changing: Rose (hose, rise, rope, Ross)

Traffic Lights: 1. Cable; 2. Carbon; 3. Taxidermist; 4. Buskin; 5. Trammel; 6. Cartilage

Riddle-My-Name: Beryl
Strange Subtraction: STY (SIXTY-IX)

J	U	M	P	A	C	I	D
A	R	C	H	E	R	A	
C	A	I	N	T	A	C	T
K	N	E	A	D	D	E	E
I	L	L	A	I	L		
B	U	S	A	S	T	E	R
A	M	E	N	D	S	S	O
T	A	D	E	P	T	S	
H	E	L	P				T
							R
							E
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CN WRITING
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